



# MNPS Kindergarten Transition Guide

## Starting Kindergarten is a big deal!

It's a big deal for parents, kids, teachers, neighbors – it's a community event. This guide provides a few tips and pointers to help everyone make the transition.

Have a question about MNPS Kindergarten? Call customer service at **615-259-4636** or log on to: [www.mnps.org](http://www.mnps.org)

**Other resources:** Call 2-1-1 for the United Way resource hotline.

Parents Know Kids Grow: [www.parentsknowkidsgrow.org](http://www.parentsknowkidsgrow.org)

## MNPS 2012 Kindergarten Registration



### Who?

To be eligible for Kindergarten, children must be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2012.



### Where?

Register at your child's zoned school according to the parent or legal guardian's address. To identify that school, call **615-259-4636** or use the online school finder, found here:

<http://zonefinder.mnps.org/zonefinder/getzonedschools.aspx>

**\*For non-English language homes, parents need to register at the MNPS ELL Office: (615) 259-8608**



### What to bring to register:

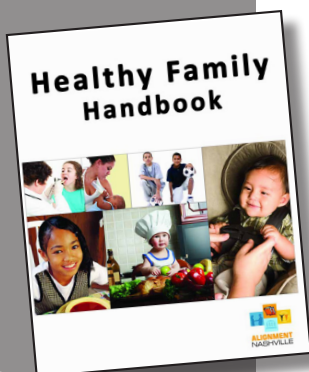
- the child's birth certificate
- a physical from a doctor within 12 months of school starting (school starts in August 2012)
- proof of residence – this could be a utility bill or signed lease that has your name and address on it (driver's license and cell phone bills DO NOT qualify as proof of residence)
- up-to-date Tennessee Certificate of Immunization (from your doctor or health clinic)



### When?

The week of March 26-30, 2012.

# Important steps to be **READY** for Kindergarten...



## Child Health

- Be sure to make an appointment with the doctor or a health clinic to get your child the necessary shots (immunizations) required for kindergarten. Be sure to get the Tennessee Certificate of Immunization from your doctor or health clinic.
- Set an early bedtime – kids need lots of sleep to thrive in Kindergarten.
- Serve well-balanced meals to provide good energy to your child for a busy day at school.
- Consult this guide for more info:

[www.alignmentnashville.org/news/healthy-family-handbook-resource-guide](http://www.alignmentnashville.org/news/healthy-family-handbook-resource-guide)

## Play Time

- Children learn valuable social skills when they play with one another at home, in the neighborhood, at the park, and in Pre-K or child care settings. They learn to communicate, share space and materials, and solve problems - three skills they'll need in kindergarten

## Encourage Independence (in small steps)

- Your child can help with daily routines and household chores to get ready for Kindergarten. You can teach your child to get dressed, how to put on pants and zip them up, use the bathroom, wash hands, open containers (ex: milk or juice boxes/ketchup packets), and clear their place at the table.
- Children who can take care of some of their own needs will feel more comfortable at school. You can help them practice in an environment they know – home! They'll also be ready to use their small muscles for drawing, writing, and cutting in kindergarten.

## Family Ideas – Ways to Help Everyone Get Ready For Kindergarten

- Be sure your child has an opportunity to visit their new school to tour the building. Families can discuss what their child will do in the library, cafeteria, gym, office, playground and classroom.
- Have lots of conversations!
- Talking about new words and what to expect in Kindergarten will help your child's vocabulary grow.
- Teach your child how to brush his or her teeth. You can practice together two times every day.
- Play "The Opposite Game" with your child. When you say "up" your child says "down." Start with easy pairs (big/little and fast/slow) and try harder words too.
- Encourage your child to pack his or her own bag when you go places.
- Encourage your child to set the table and to count enough plates, cups, and forks for everyone.
- Sort laundry with your child. Talk about different colors, light and dark as you sort. Later try folding the laundry too.

## Ideas For Kids – Kids Can Learn And Have Fun At The Same Time

- Draw a picture or write a note and hide it under someone's pillow.
- Practice writing your first and last name.
- Count to ten. Then try counting backwards from ten to zero.
- Practice taking your shoes off and putting them back on.
- Look at a cereal box. Find all the letters you know.
- Draw pictures of your favorite foods.
- Sweep your porch, stairs, sidewalk, or other outdoor areas.
- Count the number of jumping jacks you can do.
- Line up your family from tallest to shortest.



# Before + After Care Options: Call to Find Out Details

CHILDCARE PROVIDER	SITE LOCATIONS	PROGRAM DIRECTOR	PHONE
18th Avenue Enrichment Center	18th Avenue Enrichment Center	Shantrelle Edmondson	320-1131
Eakin Care Program	Eakin	Lori Romersa	298-8062
Eakin Harris Hillman Care, Inc.	Eakin, Harris-Hillman	Shirley Fitzgerald	298-4049
Extended School Program	Glendale	Beth Miller	292-1789 394-3008
Julia Green	Julia Green	Sandra Yarnell	298-5145
McNeilly Center	Caldwell; Chadwell; Glenn	Melba Marcum	244-6473
Percy Priest Extended Care	Percy Priest	Stephanie Dodson	665-0982
(PNA) Project for Neighborhood Aftercare	Churchwell Museum Magnet; Cockrill Elementary; Kirkpatrick & Sylvan Park	Illia Moore	385-7067 Ext. 11

**YMCA Fun Company has Before/After Care Options at the following sites:  
Contact the respective representative for these schools:**

## David Millsap

615-259-3418 ext. 27527

Alex Green Elementary  
Amqui Elementary  
Bellshire Elementary  
Chadwell Elementary  
Dan Mills Elementary  
Gateway Elementary  
(@ Ewing Park)  
Goodlettsville Elementary  
Hattie Cotton Elementary  
Inglewood Elementary  
Jones Paideia  
Lockeland Elementary  
Neely's Bend Elementary  
Old Center Elementary  
Robert Lillard Elementary  
Rosebank Elementary  
Ross Elementary  
Shwab Elementary  
Stanford Elementary  
Stratton Elementary  
Tom Joy Elementary

## Lonnell Matthews

615-259-3418 ext. 72516

A.Z. Kelley Elementary  
Andrew Jackson Elementary  
Dodson Elementary  
DuPont Elementary  
Hermitage Elementary  
Hickman Elementary  
J.E. Moss Elementary  
Lakeview Elementary  
McGavock Elementary  
Mt. View Elementary  
Pennington Elementary  
Ruby Major Elementary  
Thomas Edison Elementary  
Tulip Grove Elementary  
Una Elementary

## Tonya Bryson

615-259-3418 ext. 72530

Carter-Lawrence Ele.  
Cole Elementary  
Creive Hall Elementary  
Glenclyff Elementary  
Glengarry Elementary  
Granberry Elementary  
Haywood Elementary  
Maxwell Elementary  
Napier Elementary  
Norman Binkley  
Paragon Mills Elementary  
Shayne Elementary  
Tusculum Elementary  
Whitsitt Elementary

## Tonya Bryson

615-259-3418 ext. 72530

Bordeaux Elementary  
Buena Vista Elementary  
Charlotte Park Elementary  
Cumberland Elementary  
Gower Elementary  
Harpeth Valley Elementary  
Hull-Jackson Magnet  
Park Avenue Elementary  
Westmeade Elementary



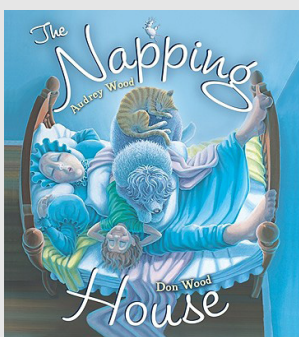
# Read, Read, Read!!

For more ideas, log on to [www.readtennessee.org](http://www.readtennessee.org)

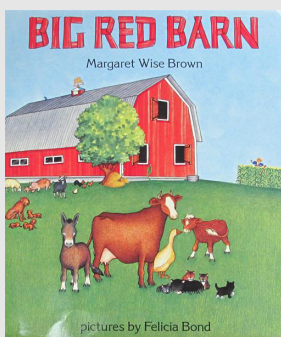
- Did you know? A student's reading ability in 3rd grade is a very strong predictor of success in high school and beyond.
- To read well in 3rd grade, and then be successful in high school, a child needs to start learning words early. Kindergarten is a great time to share books with children and have regular story time at home. This special time can help you bond as a family, and also teaches important language and literacy skills.
- Conversation with children about what they read is a great way to improve vocabulary.

## Great books from the Nashville Public Library to get ready for Kindergarten:

More can be found here: [www.library.nashville.org/kids/kid\\_blists.asp](http://www.library.nashville.org/kids/kid_blists.asp)

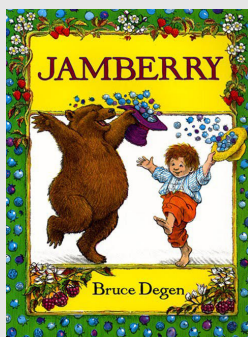


**The Napping House**  
by Audrey Wood

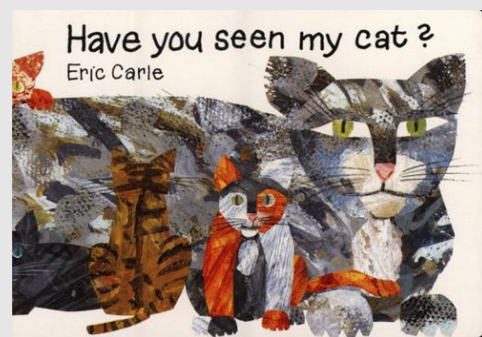


**Ten Black Dots**  
by Donald Crews

**Big Red Barn**  
by Margaret Wise Brown



**Jamberry**  
by Bruce Degen



**Have you seen my cat?**  
by Eric Carle

## Some great things you can do to help your child's reading skills:

- Let your child be **involved in choosing** books.
- **Practice retelling** the story in his or her own words.
- **Talk** about the pictures, characters and events in the story as you are reading.
- Encourage your child to **use their imagination** or to make predictions about what will happen in a story.
- You can **point out some letters** in the book. "There is a 'j.' Your name starts with a 'j' too."
- At times, **run your finger** below the text as you read aloud.
- **Repetition and rhyme** books are great! You can **read these aloud** with pauses to let your child fill in the words.

Material Adapted from CMS Kindergarten Transition Guide  
Produced in partnership:

